

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
PUBLIC SESSION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2013
7:00P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Council President Porter called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

Present: Mayor Eugene Grant (Late), Councilmember Johnie L. Higgs, Sr., Councilmember Eugene Kennedy, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Elenora Simms, Councilmember Aretha Stephenson, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: Robert Ashton, Acting City Administrator, Christopher Cotillo, Chief of Police, Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk, Johnny Thompson, Director of Public Works, Officer Stevens, Officer Lowery,

1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:

The invocation was given by Councilmember Higgs

1.1.4. Approval of Agenda

It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

1.1.5. Approval of November Meeting Minutes

- It was motioned by Councilmember Yeargin and seconded by Councilmember Higgs to approve the Regular Work Session meeting minutes for Monday, December 3, 2012. The motion carried.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Raynor and seconded by Councilmember Stephenson to approve the Emergency meeting minutes for Monday, December 10, 2012. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.

- It was motioned by Councilmember Raynor and seconded by Councilmember Stephenson to approve the Public Session meeting minutes for Monday, December 10, 2012. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Stephenson to approve the Closed Session meeting minutes for Monday, January 7, 2013. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Higgs to approve the Regular Work Session meeting minutes for Monday, January 7, 2013. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the Public Session meeting minutes for Monday, January 14, 2013. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Stephenson and seconded by Councilmember Higgs to approve the Closed Session meeting minutes for Tuesday, January 15, 2013. The motion carried. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. PRESENTATIONS:

2.1. Letters of Commendation

- Chief Cotillo presented letter of commendations to Officer Stevens and Officer Lowery for their great work on apprehending suspects in crimes.
- Chief Cotillo stated Postmaster Payne earned a certificate of appreciation for installation of a mailbox at the Police Department to secure the evidence deposited while officers were off duty.

2.2. City's Demolition Procedures-

- Mr. Ashton stated that he presented the City Council with the demolition procedures of the City. He stated that Mrs. Andrews, Code Enforcement Officer and UK, Nuisance and Abatement Officer are present to answer any questions.

- Mrs. Andrews provided the City Council with a brief synopsis of the procedures.
- She provided them with the addresses of the properties that have been identified to be demolished in the City.
- They sent out notices to all registered owners and posted a notice on the property.
- They will advertise a notice in the gazette for 30 days regarding any property that may be demolished.
- The owner has 30 days to appeal the process. The advertisement must be in the paper for three weeks consecutively.
- They will verify with the City Attorney to determine that the property has not changed hands. This was the problem with the property on MLK that was recently demolished
- They will send notice to Pepco and WSSC to ensure that the utilities are off to raise the property.
- The process takes approximately 60 days.
- Mr. Ashton stated that they have provided the City Attorney with the procedures that the County follows to demolish properties. Mr. Ashton stated that he has heard back from the City Attorney regarding the process and he feels that it is appropriate for us to follow the County procedures. He stated that if he has not provided any feedback from the City Attorney, he apologized and will provide that feed back.
- Council President Porter stated that this is a presentation and they will not be asking questions.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that she had a questions and she feels that they need to take a consensus of the Council on asking questions. She stated that the Council President runs the meeting not the Council.
- Mrs. Andrews and Uk were dismissed from the meeting.

3. LEGISLATION

3.1. None

4. REPORTS

4.1. Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Grant stated that he would like an observance of Black History Month. He stated that today Nelson Mandela was released from prison after serving 27 years.

- He stated that they are moving forward. He stated that the City has made some significant moves.
- He stated that we are getting national and international recognition for the work.
- He stated that some of the things that are going on around us are direct results of the work that we have done.
- He stated that the 20743 zip code was awarded the Health Enterprise Zone designation. He stated that one can argue that it is because of the health disparities in the area. He stated that the relationship with UMD and Prince George's Hospital are direct result of the Health Partnership, which started in Seat Pleasant.
- He stated that he will be signing the Memorandum of Understanding. He stated that he wanted the Council to recognize the work they have done to afford the designation.
- He stated that once the City Center is built and we have a Health and Wellness Center it will be a bigger feather in our cap.
- He provided the City Council with a flyer for a public forum being hosted by WAMU radio talk-show host Kojo Nnamdi on February 25, 2013 at Central High School at 7:00p.m.
- He stated that the Clinic at PG Hospital had a young man come to the medical center. He is 21 years of age and HIV positive. He had come to the clinic because he had contracted Gonorrhea, which means he is still having unprotected sex.
- He stated there is a large population among the senior community who has recently contracted sexual transmitted diseases.
- He stated that they are happy to have the urban Bush woman from New York to be a part of the conversation on February 25, 2013. He requested that they encourage their family, neighbors and church members to attend the forum.
- He stated that the Port Towns are doing things with Kaiser on Health Care Initiatives.
- He stated that he is pleased to report to the Council and citizens that we had a very good meeting regarding the City Center Project. He stated they are hoping that in another two weeks he can present to the full Council to get an approval to sign the definitive agreements. He stated that most of the concerns were addressed by the Committee. The City Attorney understands what needs to be done to have a dialogue about the finished documents.
- He stated that the Council will receive the finished documents.

- He stated that maybe by the March 11, 2013 we may be ready to sign.
- He stated that after this it will be a lot of work to be done. There will be Charrettes on each facility. We will be doing that within 60 days with a lot of back to back meetings. He stated we will need to determine what size we want the City Hall to be. The recreation Center decisions will be made by Park & Planning. The seniors will be deciding on what they want on the senior grounds.
- He stated that some of the senior apartments will have granite counter tops and some will not.
- He stated the new Community Center will replace the Feggans Center and he will be discussing it with Mrs. Feggans and Mr. Ruffin as they instrumental in facilitating the events at the Feggans Center.
- He stated that he wanted to publicly thank the City Attorney Lindsey Rader for her hard work.
- He thanked the committee members Councilmember Simms, Councilmember Higgs, Councilmember Porter and Mr. Ashton for their patience and hard work.
- He stated that they are not doing things secretly, but strategically. He stated that once the land is purchased the City will still own the land. The City will own the improvements after 40 years on the land.
- He stated that they are doing a great job on the project.
- He stated that Autism week will be Saturday, March 20, 2013.
- The health summit date has not been set. He stated that none of the Council came last year.
- He is hoping that someone on the legislative branch can attend. He stated that they are partners and they can report on the summit to the full council
- He stated that we have several committees that are not active that started during the Kennedy administrations. They are education, beautification and youth committee. He stated that he will be putting a notice in the newsletter to request for someone to get involved.
- He requested that the Council pay attention to the newsletter and the Mayor article. He stated the tone is different. He will be primarily discussing Citizens Engagement. He stated that the Civic Association does not come to the meeting and provide any information to the Council. He stated that they need to be more engaged. He stated that they can assist us and provide testimony.

- He stated that he is asking for the Council help. He requested that they revamp their ward meetings. He stated that regardless if they come or not still have the meeting.
- He stated that we hear an argument from the community that we only see the Council during election time. He stated that they have two meetings per month and the Council e-mail addresses are listed on the website.

4.2. Kelly Porter, Council President Report:

- Council President Porter stated his report was on the information stand.

4.3 Dave McGill, Chief-Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department

- Chief McGill was not present during the Public Session and no report was submitted.

4.4. Acting City Administrator – Robert L. Ashton

- Mr. Ashton stated a week ago the Council asked him some questions on the MD704 project. He stated that we are waiting on the MOU from State Highway Administrations.
- He stated the I-net has a cable coalition and they are dealing with Comcast. He stated that they want us to provide a list of items they would like to see in the agreement. He stated that the letter is due on March 1, 2013. He stated that he would like the Council and Mayor to provide their wish list by February 21, 2013.
- Mayor Grant stated that he was confused on the statement. Mr. Ashton stated that they can provide training on the equipment. The Fire Department had an excellent idea of what they would like to see on the I-net when it is completed.
- He stated the I-net location in the City needs to be determined.
- Councilwoman Simms recommended that Mr. Ashton talk to the Police Department as they are familiar with the work has already begun.

4.5. Finance Department- Robert Ashton, Treasurer

- Mr. Ashton stated that the County is having a 2014 budget hearing on Tuesday, February 12, 2013 at Laurel High School at 7:00p.m. He stated that we may not be able to attend, but we have provided them with a written format.
- He stated that he will be providing the Council with a financial report on January 31, 2013 after he meets with the Budget & Finance committee.

- Mayor Grant wanted to know the status of the generator for the City. He stated that he will check into the official vote and order the generator, if approved.

4.6. Police Department – Christopher Cotillo, Chief of Police

- Chief Cotillo stated that the police department handled 569 calls in January with nine arrests.
- Councilmember Yeargin stated that he has never heard a report from the Chief on the help they receive from the County.
- He stated that he has a very good relationship with the County, as he worked with the County. He stated that they have a good partnership, but they do not have a good follow-up.
- He stated that the County assigns officers to the area and they should start to see more officers in the Community.

4.7. Public Works Department- Johnny Thompson, Director of Public Works

- Mr. Thompson stated that he wanted to highlight on the season of the snow removal. He stated that we had three or four false alarms and they were ready and on standby to handle the situation.
- He stated that it was requested for a Snow Removal plan to be provided. He stated that he has put together a draft plan that will be submitted to the Committee.
- He stated a notification will be provided to the residents on an Emergency Plan.
- He stated that they had 24 Community Services Worker for the month of January and they saved the City \$3, 922.74.
- He stated that it is not the intent of the Public Works Department to block someone's driveway when they are plowing. He stated that they pay attention to the Fire Hydrants and would like the Citizens to clean them off.
- Councilmember Yeargin wanted to know if there was another plan to renovate the facility since the bond bill was not approved.
- Mr. Thompson stated that he will present the plan to the Public Works Committee.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the plan B would be a section in the budget under Capital Improvements.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Mr. Johnny Coleman, Upper Marlboro, MD-

- Mr. Coleman that he was resident of the City for 52 years. He stated that he has run a basketball and baseball camp since 1996.
- He stated that he can reflect back on the Mayors Report and stated that every Police Officer has spoken to the kids. This helps the kids.
- He stated he would like for the Council and Mayor to provide them with some insurance.
- He would like for them to be included in the City's budget.
- He stated that Councilmember Kennedy had encouraged him to get the 501C-3 for the organization. He stated that the process is costly.

Mr. Roger Reynolds, Sr.-702 66th Ave, Seat Pleasant

- He stated that he is requesting that the City consider writing in the cross walk the word "STOP" in the street at the crosswalks. This request is for the children.

Mr. Elmer Mims, 7227 G St., Seat Pleasant, MD

- He requested for the Council to join him in giving the Mayor a hand, as he invited him to a prayer breakfast and he is praying man.
- He stated that he knows that Seat Pleasant doesn't have more than G Street. He stated that the signs that they hang on the doors when residents put their trash out too soon. He would like to know what has happened to them.
- He wanted to know what happened with someone riding around on Monday and Thursday regarding the trash being put on the curb without a trash can. He would like to know what has happened with this.
- He wanted to know what has happened to the "Welcome Packet" he called up to City Hall two weeks ago and requested a packet and was told that we did not have any.
- Councilmember Yeargin stated that he has a few extra welcome packets.
- Mayor Grant stated that we begin to address these issues in the Newsletter when the seasons are approaching.
- He stated that if the person sees a new resident to provide the information to the Councilmember to provide the welcome packet to the new resident. It would look better coming from the Ward representative. Afterwards the Public Works Department will follow-up with a recycle bin.
- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that she called last week and was informed that the packet is being updated due to the changes in the Council.
- Mayor Grant stated that the concern with the Code Enforcement checking on

Saturday is a schedule change issues. He stated that Acting City Administrator and Police Department to discuss the concerns.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

6.1 None

7. NEW BUSINESS:

7.1. City Council Legislative Assignment

- Councilwoman Simms stated that the assignment list was provided last week. However the packet provides information on the legislative process and how the lobby on behalf of the City.
- Council President Porter stated that the Council will be working directly with other legislator on behalf of the City.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 8.1. Seat Pleasant Black History Month Program, Thursday, February 28, 2013
Seat Pleasant Activity Center, 5720
- 8.3. WSSC Public Meeting on Sewer Improvements, Wednesday, December 19, 2012, Glenarden/Theresa Banks Complex, 8615 McLain Ave., Glenarden, MD 20706 from 6:30p.m.-8:30p.m.
- 8.4. City Website Demonstration for Citizens "How to Use the City Website", Thursday, December 20, 2012, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers from 1:00pm-2:00pm

9. ADJOURN- The meeting was adjourned at 8:37p.m.

Submitted by,



Dashaun N. Lanham
City Clerk